Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-011
Wednesday
17 January 1990

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Group of Eight Ministers To Meet 'Next Week'

PY1601215690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1903 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 16 Jan (EFE)—A high-ranking diplomatic source has reported that foreign ministers from the Group of Eight countries will hold a meeting next week to discuss the Panama issue. This was decided today by Group of Eight representatives who met for 2 days in Lima. The source added that Panama, which is also a Group of Eight member, has been suspended from the group until its political situation has been normalized. The diplomat, who refused to be identified, said that the date and the site of the foreign ministers meeting will be decided "in the next few hours."

The Group of Eight technical mission that met at the Peruvian Foreign Ministry included diplomats from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The source said that during the meeting, which was held behind closed doors, the diplomats discussed the U.S. invasion of Panama, the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama, and the need for a normalization of the Panamanian democratic process on the basis "of upholding the principle of nonintervention."

The source added that the diplomats also discussed the Latin American foreign debt, which is estimated at $450 billion; the political situation in Central America; and the drug trafficking issue, which is mainly affecting Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru.

The same source said that these issues will reportedly be part of the agenda at the foreign ministers' meeting.

The source also said the Group of Eight technical mission was informed about the situation regarding the Peruvian Embassy in Panama; the Peruvian Government's request for guarantees for Peruvian diplomatic personnel; and the upholding of the principle of nonintervention.

The source said the Peruvian Embassy in Panama was attacked last week by several Panamanian citizens.

Cuba

'Warning' Issued to U.S. Interests Office

FL1601153090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Cuban Foreign Ministry has criticized the new act of provocation perpetrated by the United States against the Cuban ambassador's residence in Panama, an act that was carried out with the pretext of demanding that the Panamanian refugees staying at the Cuban Embassy be turned in. These refugees have not yet received the safe-conducts to leave Panama.

Cuba considers that this event indicates that an act of provocation is being organized. Therefore, it denounced this action to the United Nations and to the U.S. State Department, and it issued a warning to the U.S. Interests Office in Havana. [passage omitted]

Protests in Panama, Expulsion of Peruvian Noted

FL1601214090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The pro-U.S. Civic Crusade made new calls over the radio today for the continuation of demonstrations in front of the home of the Cuban ambassador to Panama and in areas surrounding the Peruvian mission. Members of this business organization have approached the entrance of the Cuban representation in the last 2 days to shout offensive remarks to the Panamanian asylum-seekers who remain there for security reasons.

This type of demonstration also took place in front of the residence of the head of the Peruvian diplomatic mission in Panama City. Some individuals took advantage of these occasions to throw stones and damage the automobiles of accredited personnel. The Peruvian Embassy has been surrounded by Yankee Marines since last week when it was reported that Panamanians had sought refuge there.

Luis Sandiga, Peruvian charge d'affaires to Panama, was expelled today by the authorities imposed by Yankee invader troops. Appearing as a retaliatory action against Lima's position for not recognizing the new Panamanian regime, Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Castulovich said the measure does not mean relations are being broken. He asserted it is because of recent remarks made by the Peruvian Army regarding its isthmian counterpart. Castulovich also said Panamanian ruler Guillermo Endara gave the Peruvian charge d'affaires 72 hours to leave the country. The Panamanian deputy foreign minister noted that a decision will be reached soon regarding the rest of the Peruvian representatives and added that Jaime Serrano, Panamanian trade attache to the Andean nation, was recalled.

Soviets Criticize U.S. Detention of Cuban Envoy

FL1501212090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] The detention of Cuban Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora by U.S. troops was criticized today by the Soviet Union, which characterized such an action as a provocation. Washington should think about those actions that make the situation in the Central American area even more dangerous, warned the local Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilyev in Moscow. He added that the Soviet Government wants to draw the attention of the United States again on the inadmissibility of violating the Vienna Convention on the status and immunity of diplomats under any circumstance.

The U.S. troops detained the Cuban ambassador and two other officials of our diplomatic mission in the isthmian country for 1 ½ hour for refusing to let Yankee soldiers search the vehicle of Lazaro Mora, chief of the mission.

Vice President Returns From CEMA Meeting

FL1701015690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0020 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Havana, 16 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The daily GRANMA, official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, reported today that Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez returned to Havana yesterday after attending the 45th CEMA meeting.

Rodriguez did not make any statements upon his arrival in the Cuban capital, but he had previously commented that the results of the CEMA meeting had been positive. However, he said the organization should not abandon its principles.

The participants ended the 45th meeting with the decision to renovate the organization inasmuch as the majority of the member countries agreed that its structure no longer works within the current international framework.

During his remarks, the Cuban vice president supported the use of preferential prices to try to eliminate unequal trade between the developed European socialist countries and Third World countries grouped in the international economic organization.

The CEMA meeting was held in Sofia, Bulgaria last week.

Ambassador Alarcon Seeks UN's Democratization

PA1401214590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0333 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Havana, 13 Jan (EFE)—Cuba's new Ambassador to the United Nations Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada says the leading problem at the United Nations is a lack of democratization.

Alarcon, who held the same post between 1966 and 1978, made statements to the Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA, which were published today. He remarked that the right to veto held by five countries in the UN Security Council is an "antidemocratic principle."

It is necessary—he added—for the small countries to have their rights guaranteed and their independence and sovereignty respected, and that an end be put to the powerful nations' policy of aggression, and he cited the Panamanian case as an example.

"Much has been said about an obvious improvement in relations between the United States and the USSR, but this is not reflected in the underdeveloped countries" said the Cuban official, who is also vice foreign minister.

"The main task faced by the UN, the nonaligned countries, and the Third World is to organize themselves and make a concerted effort that will lead to the organization's democratization," he said.

During the interview, the Cuban ambassador repeatedly referred to the U.S. invasion of Panama, saying the action was repudiated primarily by the Latin American countries. He added that "several European countries" showed complicity and the UN did not act efficiently.

I believe that if the United States really wants to combat drug trafficking, what it should do is "block Florida's coasts, New York's Central Park, and even the streets of Los Angeles."

Alarcon has been designated UN ambassador just when Cuba has been elected as a temporary member, for 1990-91, of the Security Council, which it joined on 1 January, and over which Alarcon will preside during the month of February.

The ambassador is considered a shrewd negotiator in Cuba's relations with the United States and, among other issues in which he has been involved lately are the peace agreements between Cuba, Angola, and South Africa, and the "Tele Marti" issue—the channel the United States plans to put on the air for Cuban viewers.

U.S. Intentions To Launch TV Marti Noted

FL1701004390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0002 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Despite critical warnings, U.S. authorities insist on going ahead with the illegal anti-Cuban television project, which could bring serious international tensions. According to a report carried today by CNN, a U.S. television network, the promoters of the subversive project are planning to implement it in its entirety regardless of its negative consequences.

In 1988, the U.S. Congress approved some $7.5 million for this channel's test period and another $32 million for its operation in 1990 and 1991 after President George Bush confirms its technical feasibility.

Cuban authorities have charged that this project violates the Nairobi international treaties on radio broadcasts and also constitutes a transgression of our island's sovereignty. According to the officials, the Havana government is attempting to persuade Washington through diplomatic means to desist on carrying out its plan and thus avoid a greater incident of unpredictable consequences. If this does not happen, Cuba will be forced to respond accordingly and defend its territorial integrity from those enemy signals.

CNN said today that the wrongly-named TV Marti is threatening to start a telecommunications war between the two countries because of Cuba's promise of not only blocking the images in its territory but also of interfering with U.S. radio broadcasts.

Some Yankee experts in international relations believe that this incident could turn into an even more dangerous confrontation. CNN quoted Wayne Smith, former U.S. diplomat, who believes that faced with such a conflict, the United States could feel tempted to launch what he called surgical air attacks to destroy transmitters in Cuba. The U.S. television station noted that some in the United States ask themselves if it is really worth provoking an international incident of such magnitude with these transmissions against Cuba. However, CNN said, the anti-Cuban television project has support in Congress and it will probably operate full time no matter what.

Commentary on Santa Cruz Drug Meeting

FL1201172090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1142 GMT 12 Jan 90

["Our Opinion" commentary read by Rafael Berastegui]

[Text] Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Skol will be received today, Friday, 12 January, in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz with the determination of Latin America to make an autonomous, realistic and global focus prevail on the issue of drug trafficking. About 50 representatives from our America have been meeting there since Thursday to refine and coordinate criteria before discussing, with Skol, the agenda of the conference of the presidents of the U.S., Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia scheduled for 15 February in Cartagena, Colombia. Four commissions met in Santa Cruz on Thursday, one made up of the deputy ministers heads of mission and the other three of experts who discussed the punishment of drug traffickers and the economic and political aspects of this crime under the conditions that exist on our continent.

U.S. economist Scott B. MacDonald, who has written two books on drug trafficking, believes Panama was never a very important site for drug shipments or money laundering. According to MacDonald, the criminals prefer the Bolivia/Argentina/Paraguay/Uruguay route to get the drugs out, and prefer using the Caribbean banks of Anguila and Montserrat and the South American banks in Paraguay and Uruguay to launder the money.

The American economist stresses that as long as the root of the problem is not attacked, narcotics trafficking is like the mythical hydra, a monstrous serpent with seven heads—when one is cut off, another grows elsewhere.

Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia—countries called to the deliberations in Santa Cruz and Cartagena—have similar socioeconomic problems but are in different situations regarding drug trafficking. Colombia is home to the powerful Medellin Cartel and the more discreet Cali Cartel, which control the processing of drugs and their shipment to the U.S. and Western Europe, while Bolivia and Peru are the producers of coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine. In Peru alone, more than 80,000 poor peasants find their basic source of subsistence in coca cultivation; coca requires little care and has guaranteed prices and markets.

Bolivians and Peruvians are convinced that it is essential to offer these peasants an alternative. In general, the delegations from Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru agree on rejecting the conditioning of U.S. economic aid on the results each country obtains in punishing the criminals, and they will let Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Skol know this.

He who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind, as the saying goes. American conduct in Panama and the attempt to blockade the Colombian coasts sounded the alert: let Santa Cruz bury the U.S. intention to reduce the struggle against drug trafficking to a simple matter of police repression, a cloak of its intention to interfere openly at whim in the lives of its neighbors.

Commentary on Military Maneuvers in Honduras

FL1501194090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has just announced that it will continue carrying out military maneuvers in Honduras during this year. Apparently, there will be several of them, and they will be held throughout most of 1990 with the participation of thousands of troops.

This decision cannot go unnoticed by Nicaraguan authorities. What is the objective of so much war fanfare? The way we see it, it is at least to influence the electoral process in Nicaragua in favor of anti-Sandinism and to reinforce the counterrevolution based in Honduras. One must not forget that Washington will not support any decisions regarding the contras before the next February elections in that Central American country. Apparently, if those elections can finally be held, and if the Sandinists win, we do not think the U.S. Government will decide to support the dismantling of the contras as it was supposed to have done since the Tela Summit, in adherence to the agreements reached by the presidents of the area. With regard to the Nicaraguan electoral process, the U.S. Government already anticipates dirty maneuvers, pretexts, and tricks of all sorts in the eventuality of an anti-Sandinist defeat. The intention of the U.S. Government is to get the Sandinists out of power. It is an (?extreme) policy from which we do not exclude, for obvious reasons, direct military intervention.

Havana Notes Situation in Azerbaijan

FL1501133690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Radio Moscow reports that the number of dead as a result of the disturbances in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan could be as high as 30. According to that source, the efforts of the authorities are insufficient because there are not enough means to control the situation, which is increasingly complicated because of the clashes between Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

The Moscow radio station pointed out that during the last 15 days the situation in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, had been very tense as a result of the attacks and shooting, primarily carried out by Azerbaijanis who had left Armenia and are now homeless and unemployed. Among those who aggravated the situation, the radio named representatives of the Azerbaijan People's Front— an organization with nationalist tendencies.

During the last few hours, leaders of the party and Soviet Government have arrived in the capitals of the two republics.

Further on Castro at Scientific Award Ceremony

PA1601154490 Havana International Service in Spanish 1403 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] President Fidel Castro asserted on 15 January that science could become a decisive factor in the country's future and that Cuba's development and the solution to economic problems depends on science.

Cuba has approximately 30,000 researchers who work in approximately 150 research units. Over 5,000 of those 30,000 workers are qualified researchers.

Fidel Castro presided over a ceremony to deliver the Carlos J. Finlay award to five research units and seven prominent scientists.

The Cuban president mentioned the agreement signed with the Soviet Union as an example. Cuba signed a 250-million ruble agreement for the delivery of medicine and medical equipment to the Soviet Union.

Fidel Castro praised the progress made in the field of biomedicine and in medical care in general. Castro also praised the discovery and marketing of the meningitis vaccine.

Castro also recognized the contribution made by the Cuban scientists to the progress of the ultramicroanalytical system, the factor of epidermic growth, and the new national atlas.

Castro praised the Doctor of the Family Plan, a new medical care system that has contributed very much to the gradual decrease of infant mortality in Cuba.

Castro said that the Doctor of the Family Plan pointed to the need to conduct research on high blood pressure problems in young children and in people with certain specific occupations, and also to research the existence of congenital malformations in residents of certain regions of the country.

Fidel Castro said it would be interesting to find out why Cuban women's life expectancy is 76 years and men's life expectancy is 73 years.

The Cuban president stressed the need to immediately introduce scientific discoveries into practice. He urged researchers to request support and resources whenever they need them to shorten the time between the scientific discovery and its application.

Repeating a statement made 30 years ago, Castro said Cuba's future must be the future of the men of science.

Michel Valdes Sousa, one of those decorated with the Carlos J. Finlay order, reasserted that researchers are committed to progress and the future.

Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Science Academy of Cuba, stressed that it is necessary to conduct more detailed [word indistinct] and to provide better services to prove the value of socialism like has never been done before.

Castro Speaks

FL1601163090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1211 GMT 16 Jan 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party Central Committee, presided over the main ceremony of Cuban Science Day in the Palace of Conventions in the capital, where seven Cuban scientists and five outstanding collectives were also given awards. At the request of those present, the commander in chief gave a speech.

[Begin Castro recording] We primarily wanted to change the country, and this idea was very clear; some ideas were very clear to us. The idea of associating study with work, as an ideal method of education, was very clear. The idea was very clear also that science is the basis of progress in human society; it is the basis of development. Neither I nor anyone else could have imagined that after 30 years these words would come to light, that I myself wou'd have to give an account of them. Well, this is what I am trying to explain, because now the situation is very clear, and it is clearer and clearer that the country's future is a future of men of science. [end recording]

The phrase spoken by Fidel 30 years ago was: "The future of our country must necessarily be a future of men of science; it must be a future of thinking men." Referring to the speech given by the president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, Fidel said he had been very pleased that she had spoken about the technical youth brigades.

[Begin Castro recording] On another level, in other spheres, they also innovate, research, invent, discover. She spoke about the rationalizers and the innovators who have also made very important contributions in research, and above all, who discover techniques that are very useful in the country's life. If one adds.... [changes thought] She spoke about 20,000 university professors; she spoke about 300,000 students in the different systems of higher education. One could add the hundreds of thousands of professionals in the country, which make a colossal sum of intelligence in use, a colossal sum of talent. These are the results, really, of the revolution's work in this field. [end recording]

The commander in chief referred to the placement of university graduates as well as to the narrow profile that existed before and how now we are working with the broad profile of the professionals who graduate. Referring to family doctors in the workplaces, Fidel stated:

[Begin Castro recording] It is incredible; they are really becoming the guardians of the workers' health, of the hygienic measures for the workers, of protection for the workers, and they are discovering things that we did not know about; for example, some indexes concerning the number of hypertensives. There is a relatively high number of hypertensives; this [was found out] from a conversation with the workers themselves, and through the efforts of the family doctors. Because they make a record of each worker, they began to discover then.... [changes thought] They decided to ask the Ministry of Health to plan some research, because of the relatively high number of hypertensives in [words indistinct]. Well, we had to see.... [changes thought] Or something else that has been discovered: For example, in some municipalities there is a higher rate of birth defects. This gave rise to an investigation to find out what the factors are that determine these higher rates. Or another example: regions of the country where the number of retarded children is much higher than in other regions. That is, in some provinces it is much higher than in others. And this gave rise to an investigation to find out what factors are determining this fact, that one province has a rate that is almost double that in others. Life constantly demands of us that we inquire into, explore, and investigate the causes of phenomena. Many of these that I have mentioned have been discovered precisely by the family doctors. [end recording]

Gen. Batista Comments on Provincial Inspections

FL1501140790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces inspection of the Central Army to determine if it is ready to be declared ready for defense, first stage, continued its

fifth day of activities. On this day, the Placetas Municipality in Villa Clara was fully inspected; members of the Territorial Troops Militia, production and defense brigades, and other forces showed the skills they had acquired through the various phases of combat training.

As he toured Villa Clara, Division General Sixto Batista Santana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chief of the its Military Department, gave us an assessment of the work carried out by the provinces he has visited.

[Begin Batista Santana recording] In all of the three provinces we have seen, from the first day we inspected these provinces to today, there has been progress in all areas. I think all of the provinces carried out very specific tasks in preparation for this inspection of the Central Army. [end recording]

Inspection Activities Conclude

FL1601022490 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The final activities of the comprehensive inspection of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry [MINFAR] were held today in the territories subordinated to the Central Army.

The homage paid by members of the MINFAR commission visiting Villa Clara to the Santa Clara internationalists who fell while fulfilling their honorable mission was the preamble of the 6th and last day of the inspection—conducted to consider granting the status of ready for defense, first stage, to the Central Army command.

These days have been characterized by fruitful hours of work during which the Villa Clara people, together with those from neighboring provinces, have clearly shown the level of preparedness acquired during intense days of defense training, which is, in essence, our enemy's vulnerable point. As our commander in chief has said: The enemy will think about lashing out a brutal claw over our dear land to the extent that we are capable of preparing ourselves.

The members of the FAR, comrades grouped in the Territorial Troops Militias [MTT], production and defense brigades, and special MTT groups, together with all our people, have felt they have played an active part in this inspection because of the degree of enthusiasm that has characterized each work day.

All that is left now is to wait for the results and continue to work and study with the same combative spirit of these days.

Haiti

General Avril Returns From Taiwan 15 January

FL1601191390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpts] General Prosper Avril, his family, and members of the government arrived at Mais Gate Airport at 2015 on 15 January after an 8-day trip abroad. After being greeted by a presidential guard battalion on the tarmac, the delegation headed for the diplomatic waiting room where General Fritz Romulus, who presided over the Cabinet during Gen Avril's absence, made a welcome speech. In fact, it was a speech full of barbs and threats aimed at the opposition, especially the group that had called for a number of actions to say to Gen Avril that people were tired of him and that he need not return to Haiti and that the presidential chair was vacant. [passage omitted]

In concluding his speech, Gen. Romulus told Gen. Avril that he, Romulus, was at Avril's disposal for any and all forthcoming tasks.

There were two main lines to Gen. Avril's speech, which immediately followed Gen. Romulus': Threats to the radical opposition, plus the Taiwan model of development—which Haiti must follow—under the banner of the government issuing from the 17 September 1988 coup d'etat.

Gen. Avril first castigated the political leaders, merchants, industrialists, and intellectuals who have recently dared to denounce or otherwise take a stand against his government. By saying that these people were acting against the masses on the pretext of opposing the government, the general tried to make the Haitian people angry at them. He said such people were sullying the nation's image.

The general also said the Haitian people were in favor of the way he was steering the ship of state, for they did not obey the watchwords issued last week while he was out of the country.

[Begin Avril recording] [passage omitted] I knew you would not support any vile movement that could have plunged the country into civil war once again. I see that I was not wrong. Everyone watching who has any kind of understanding should acknowledge that the Haitian people are no longer children, that the Haitian people are now mature and independent regarding the nation's political serenity. This also shows that the Haitian people are happy with the way I am handling things.

[Words indistinct] the Taiwanese elite never denigrate their country, do not sully their country, do not slow down the progress of the masses on the pretext of opposing the government. No! We say: No! You are not thereby opposing the government. You are betraying Haiti! You are betraying the Haitian people when you

can sit here in Port-au-Prince, while the nation's president goes out seeking whatever he can obtain for the Haitian people, and send telegrams to the chief of state of the host nation to tell him not to give the Haitian people aid. [end recording]

At a certain point in the speech, the general seemed angry. He was barely able to contain his anger.

What did he bring back to Haiti after a week abroad? Gen. Avril brought back the Taiwan model of development.

Taiwan is a territory just a little bigger than Haiti, which has developed greatly in 40 years, thanks to an economic liberation that attributes greater value to material goods and money than to human dignity, than to the cultural wealth within a human being.

To become like Taiwan, we must distribute state lands to the peasants; lease or rent the nation's territory to foreign businessmen—create what are called free zones; make workers work harder and (?put more land into production); and educate the masses so they can produce more. There must be collaboration, said Gen. Avril.

[Begin Avril recording] Our two countries resemble each other. They have 33,000 square kilometers; we have 27,000. The two countries are almost the same size. But if you could see how far they have progressed! When we take a closer look, we see that they applied the very same ideas we ourselves have had: Distribute state lands to the peasants so as to increase national production; create free zones so as to give more people jobs and increase the nation's exports; get the population to work more hours a day, rather than urging them to strike every day; educate the people, teach them to read and write so that they will be more productive; encourage the people not to waste money constantly ordering beautiful cars, so they can put their money into savings in the bank so they can invest—and get them to put it into banks in Haiti, not abroad. I understand all these things. This is where the force and wealth of the Republic of China lies. But it also comes from unity, the unity that exists among all the Republic of China's citizens. It is a unity that is not something they are seeking to achieve but, rather, it is the compass that allows them to march toward development. [end recording]

Last, Gen. Avril added that they found what they went looking for: Understanding, solidarity, support, and possibilities for creating jobs.

Also, Taiwan's president is to visit Haiti soon, at the invitation of Gen. Prosper Avril.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Travels to Venezuela to Meet With Perez

FL1601175390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1649 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 16, CANA— Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, flew to Venezuela Tuesday for talks with President Carlos Andres Perez.

On Robinson's one-day visit, the two will discuss issues including the October shooting of a Trinidadian fisherman, reportedly by Venezuelan guardsmen. Robinson meets Perez after the two received copies of an Organisation of American States (OAS) report on the shooting. An OAS team was brought in to investigate the death of Michael Arneud during one of many clashes between local fishermen and Venezuela's Guardia Nacional.

The Trinidad and Tobago Cabinet considered the report last Friday morning. Robinson had promised action on the incident as soon as it was clear who was at fault.

The talks in Caracas on Tuesday were also scheduled to deal with issues including Robinson's proposal for an international criminal court and agreements between the neighbouring Caribbean and Latin American republics whose relations have warmed since Perez's inauguration last February.

Agreements Reached

FL1601233390 Bridgetown CANA in English 2213 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 16, CANA— Neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela on Tuesday agreed that there would be no more shooting between fishermen and Venezuela's Guardia Nacional in the countries' shared waters. Venezuela has also agreed to consider claims for compensation by Trinidadians injured in shootings, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson said after a trip to Caracas.

The agreement based on an Organization of American States (OAS) report was reached during a tuesday morning meeting between Robinson and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Robinson told a news conference upon his return at Piarco Airport Tuesday afternoon that the main issue on the agenda was the October shooting of a Trinidadian sea captain, Michael Arneud—the first fatality in a series of clashes between Trinidad's fishermen and Venezuela's Guardia Nacional.

The prime minister said that the OAS report does not apportion blame although the Venezuelan leader agreed that Venezuela would begin hearing claims from Trinidadian fishermen.

"President Perez has offered, we have accepted, that Venezuela would consider the claims of those who have been injured for compensation," Robinson said. "We will submit as early as possible the claims on behalf of the families so long as they accept, of course." Robinson said the government here would contact Arneud's family and formulate claims on their behalf including private counsel if they wanted for submission to Venezuela. "I have confidence that the claims will be dealt with expeditiously and seriously," Robinson said.

A report from an OAS investigation into the shooting was submitted last week to Perez and Robinson and was due to be made public in Caracas and Port of Spain on Tuesday evening. The OAS report concluded that there should be no more shooting by either side in the future, that there will be joint patrols and surveillance of the areas where disputes are likely to happen, that mechanisms on how to deal with disagreements are put in place, and a treaty be drawn up.

The treaty is be formulated with the agreement of the various interested bodies including the fishermen in south Trinidad. Robinson said a Venezuelan team of technocrats would visit Trinidad within a week with a return visit planned after that to put together a permanent arrangement which might include a registry for complaints.

"What they focused on was that the framework for the most amicable and permanent resolution of the matter should be laid down, which they did," Robinson said.

Long drawn-out talks towards a renewed fishing agreement, the third between the two countries, are also expected to be completed within a year's time but the two leaders agreed on Tuesday to extend the second agreement until the renewed document is finalised. The two countries are also expected to complete a delimitation agreement—a comprehensive demarcating of the ownership of neighbouring waters—possibly by June.

The two countries agreed to continue pursuing various areas of co-operation particularly in health, energy and foreign relations which have been reached since heightened bilateral arrangements following Perez's inauguration last February.

Unions Cautioned Against 'Public Mischief'

FL1601201990 Bridgetown CANA in English 1834 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 16, CANA— The TRINIDAD GUARDIAN newspaper on Tuesday told union leaders not to use lay-offs in the public sector as "an excuse to incite violence." It was commenting on unionists' calls to seize power from government as they protest growing job cuts in the state sector.

"It should surprise no-one that certain labour leaders are most unhappy over the loss of jobs that is characteristic of a declining economy and the process of adjustment," the GUARDIAN said. "That they should want to 'seize' power in the country as their only means of getting their way, however, is something else."

The paper added: "It is a declaration, in fact, that must ring alarm bells in a society that awards the power of government through the democratic process of free and fair elections and by deep-seated conviction would not have it any other way."

The paper cited various comments made by trade union leaders at a rally last Thursday—what they said is the start of a series of protest activities against retrenchments and firings in the state sector.

The GUARDIAN warned that a protest theme such as "(Prime Minister) Robinson must go" and "people power" could have repercussions and it warned union leaders to remember their responsibility to the people. The paper said that incidents such as recent vandalism at the state water authority which has fired protesting workers could be the result of calls for allegiance amongst members by trade union leaders.

"We urge our labour leaders to remain within the parameters of good sense and choose their language more carefully when addressing the matters before them," the GUARDIAN said. It said: "We are aware of their predicament, since they have suffered such sharp declines in membership and there is no carrot left to offer the workers; but that situation must not be used as an excuse to incite violence. Such behaviour is nothing short of public mischief."

Costa Rica

U.S. Helicopters Mistakenly Land in La Cuesta

PA1701043390 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] According to the Costa Rican Security Ministry, three U.S. helicopters with 104 heavily armed soldiers aboard landed by mistake in Costa Rican territory at approximately 2200 last night.

The Costa Rican authorities reported that the helicopters overflew the area with their lights off prior to landing at La Cuesta, a short distance from the border with Panama. The aircraft landed on an athletic field in La Cuesta, alarming local residents.

The Costa Rican authorities have reported that the U.S. soldiers apparently thought they were in Panamanian territory. A few minutes after landing, the soldiers talked with the Costa Rican Southern Command chief and acknowledged their error. After 4 or 5 minutes, the three helicopters lifted off and headed for the Panamanian side of the border.

Hernan Garron, Costa Rican Security Minister, said the U.S. helicopters were looking for members of the Dignity Battalions, loyal to former dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega. Garron said the U.S. military mistook La Cuesta for Progreso in Panama, which is very close to the Costa Rican border. Garron said he is awaiting a report from Costa Rican Southern Command Chief Miguel Valdes on the incident. After checking the report, Garron will send it to the Foreign Ministry, so the foreign minister can determine the proper steps to be taken.

Probe Ordered of Landing

PA1601184390 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Residents of southern Costa Rica have reported that eight U.S. Air Force helicopters, which are stationed in the Panama canal area, overflew Costa Rican territory on 15 January. In fact, two of them landed and then headed for Panama.

Javier Laurel, official of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, said that two aircraft landed in La Cuesta. Corredores Canton, flew toward Cuerpito, and entered Panamanian territory.

Upon being briefed by our staff writers about the residents' report, Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar ordered an investigation. He later confirmed that helicopters had indeed landed and that the exact location might be determined today.

Garron said that as soon as he receives a report on this incident he will submit it to the Foreign Ministry for further actions. He denied that U.S. troops entered Paso Canoas. He added that last night he learned that Panama's Public Force commander and his Chiriqui Province Police commander are inspecting the area and this might be related to the incident.

Security Minister Unaware of 'Contra' Movements

PA1701021790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0103 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] San Jose, 16 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Security Minister Hernan Garron said today that no report has been received from Nicaragua over an alleged entry of "contras" from Costa Rica.

A few hours before, Colonel Roberto Calderon of the Sandinist military said in Juigalpa, to the north of Managua, that groups of "contras" had infiltrated from Honduras and Costa Rica "with supplies for the rebels who are in the mountains in the middle of Nicaragua."

According to Calderon, the Sandinist government has already reported these incidents to the Costa Rican and Honduran Governments.

Garron told ACAN-EFE that he will wait to receive the note from Managua before dealing with the affair, but he can already say that something of that nature could not take place with his knowledge or the complicity of the Costa Rican Government.

The Nicaraguan military chief said that the guerrilla supplies consist of rifle ammunition, "C-4" explosives, and antipersonnel mines.

El Salvador

Army 'Strongly' Condemns Oqueli Killing

PA1601221690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2023 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Army High Command today "strongly" condemned the assassination of Hector Oqueli, assistant secretary of El Salvador's National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), whose body was found on Saturday morning in Guatemala with that of Guatemalan social democratic leader Gilda Flores.

In an official communique published today, the Salvadoran Armed Forces requested that Guatemalan authorities "carry out exhaustive investigations to establish, if possible, who the masterminds and perpetrators of this crime were."

In the text of the document, the Army's High Command points out the MNR's participation "in the country's democratic process" and adds that this assassination "has caused great sorrow in social circles, political organizations, and sectors that support democracy."

Oqueli was also Socialist International's adjunct secretary general for Latin America and the Caribbean, and

his party, the MNR, along with the Social Christian Peoples Movement and the Social Democratic Party, constitute the Democratic Convergence, a left-wing coalition.

The MNR has so far abstained from accusing any specific organization for this assassination, but Salvadoran left-wing and Guatemalan social democratic leaders attributed the assassination to "death squads."

Military Accused in Jesuits Case Appear in Court

PA1701003790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2348 GMT 116 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Jan (ACAN-EFE) — Four officers and four Salvadoran Army soldiers, who were allegedly involved in the assassination of six Jesuit priests and two women, appeared this afternoon before the judge.

The eight soldiers were transfered, under strict security, from the garrisons in which they are being held to the court.

President Alfredo Cristiani named on 14 January Colonel Guillermo Benavides of the military academy, two lieutenants, a sublieutenant, two noncommissioned officers, a corporal, and two soldiers as suspects in this crime. He also said one of the soldiers is at large.

The Criminal Investigation Commission was in charge of gathering evidence, which afterward was sent to the Army Honor Commission to assign responsibilities for the crimes.

This is the first time in Salvadoran history that Army members have appeared before a judge as suspects in a political crime.

Merino on Case's Impact

PA1601230590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino Lopez today referred to the case of six Jesuits and two employees of the UCA [Central American University] who were murdered. He said that this is a case that hurts the government.

Regarding the possibility of links between the soldiers implicated in the case and members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], he said those are two different situations and that the investigations will show if the crime was planned jointly. The killing of the Jesuits was a coincidental action and was aimed at destabilizing the government, the vice president said.

[Begin recording] [Merino] We feel that this was an unprecedented action, in the sense that, to keep its commitment to the people, a government is clearly showing that it intends to take those responsible for crimes to the courts, whether they are civilian or military. Logically, the results of the investigation will indicate if this action was intentional or if it was a coincidental occurrence on that day.

[Reporter] So, are you not ruling out the possibility that there was a link between those implicated in the case of the Jesuit priests and the FMLN, as was hinted yesterday by the mayor of San Salvador?

[Merino] I think that these are quite different situations. We think that those who took part in this action will have to tell the court what their motivation was when they killed the priests so savagely. Perhaps there is not a very direct relationship in this because, as part of the government, we also pointed out in due time that it was not logical for the government or the Armed Forces to be involved in such an abominable action which was sure to be condemned by the world community. We did not find it logical for Armed Forces personnel to be involved. It will be important to determine what prompted the killers to commit this murder, which has affected confidence in the government, the Armed Forces, and the assistance that the Salvadoran people have been receiving from other countries. At this moment, questions are being raised about this aid.

[Reporter] So, a possible link is not being ruled out?

[Merino] I think that if we look at this logically, we can reach the conclusion that this action had a destabilizing effect on the government because we have had to shift our attention from things we were doing and focus on the case to try to resolve it, and this is being demonstrated thus far. There is no clear indication that there was some coordination or joint planning with the FMLN. However, this has destabilizing effects, like the FMLN's actions.

However, in addition to pointing out that this crime has to be investigated and that the murderers must be punished, we are obliged to take into account all of the crimes that the FMLN has committed. The FMLN simply kills someone, announces it, and claims credit for it but never receives the punishment prescribed by law. [end recording].

These statements were made by Vice President Merino after he officiated at a ceremony to mark the centennial of San Rafael Hospital in Santa Tecla.

Rosa Chavez Comments on Church's Role

PA1601160790 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora 1200 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded—monitored in progress]

[Text] ...determined within the Armed Forces, people who see work intending to help the poor as a subversive action and, therefore, as something against the national security, said San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez concerning the need to conduct

further investigations into the case of the assassinated Jesuit priests. The rest is now in the hands of the justice tribunals who will have in their hands an opportunity to give credibility to those state institutions, he added.

[Rosa Chavez] "When Cristiani announced that the military was responsible, the question was whether or not he would disclose the names of the primary people involved. There is now a new question because we do not believe these are isolated actions committed by people who deviate from the parameters of the institution. Rather, this responds to a way of thinking, to an upbringing, which views work done by people like those who were asssasinated, the work done being done by the church—which is very committed to people's problems—and the human rights works, as something subversive and against the state security. Therefore, in the formation process we are seen as enemies. I believe that punishing a few is not sufficient. It is also necessary to thoroughly review the criteria, to determine who the true enemies of the people and country are. I believe there is a lot to discuss in this regard. It it very important to review the patterns of formation. This is what we have proposed. Next week we will see the attitude of the military toward the clergy. This will be a test for our judicial system. During the homily, I said that there has been much talk about the need for respecting laws. However, evidence shows that impunity prevails in the country. Therefore, there are two things that will be clarified during the trial that will begin against the people involved in the assassination of the Jesuit priests."

The dialogue between the government and the FMLN guerrillas continues to be the church's main effort in attempting to solve the conflict through political means. The church will play its role in this respect, even though there are plans now to have UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar join efforts in resuming the dialogue. This situation poses two alternatives: Dialogue with United Nation's mediation, or the military solution reactivated with political murders such as the assassination of Dr Hector Oqueli Colindres, according to the religious sector in the country.

[Rosa Chavez] "There are two alternatives: The path of a political solution which could be resumed if the mediation efforts by Dr Perez de Cuellar are successful; and the path of total madness which is promoted with assassinations like the killing of Dr Oqueli Colindres. The assassination of Oqueli makes the political solution more difficult. However, solving the difficulties will depend on the wisdom of all people responsible in our country."

During the celebration of religious activities, and during the traditional part of the homily on events this week, Rosa Chavez mentioned that it is very possible that the violent events in the past few days could help to attain peace in El Salvador.

[Rosa Chavez] "We ask people to honor again the sacred right to live, to all lives, regardless of political or ideological differences. In front of the corpse of a man [Oqueli] who participated in several rounds of dialogue, we should renew the unyielding commitment to set aside violence and promote a political solution to the complex and desperate armed confrontation destroying us each day. Paradoxically, the moment we are living, so full of bad news, could be crucuial for peace."

Next week, Salvadoran bishops who are members of the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference [CEDES] will hold a meeting in San Salvador, even though a lot has been said in the past few months regarding disagreements existing within the church over the social-religious work it carries out. For Msgr Rosa Chavez, this meeting will serve to determine, with these objectives in mind, what the work of CEDES throughout the country in helping the needy should be.

Official Testifies on FENASTRAS 'Massacre'

PA1701000690 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 12 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] At the request of the prosecutor general, Maria Julia Hernandez, director of the Legal Aid Office of the Archbishopric, appeared in court today to testify at an inquiry being conducted on the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] massacre. She told reporters, however, that she regarded the legal proceedings "ill-intentioned."

At the request of the prosecutor general, Judge Daniel Gonzalez Romero summoned her because, according to the Legal Aid Office and many people, the death squads are suspected in the crime. "I hope the authorities solve the crime. I hope this is not a whim of the Prosecutor General's office, which seems to be ill-intentioned with regard to me," the religious official said.

It was explained that the court is awaiting a Crime Commission decision so the results of the inquiry can be added to the legal proceedings.

The FENASTRAS crime, in which at least 10 union members, including Secretary General Febe Elizabeth Velasquez, were killed, was perpetrated at noon on 31 October last year.

Hernandez said it is high time to determine who make up these death squads so they can be punished. She expressed again her suspicion that the death squads were responsible for the massacre.

Regarding the death of the Jesuits, she demanded after appearing in court that both the masterminds and the perpetrators of the deed be punished so that justice can prevail.

Guatemala

'Mountain Officers' Demand Release of Comrades

PA1601231390 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 14 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 January—The so-called "mountain officers," a group supposedly made up of Army officers who are not on active duty and who disagree with the views of the current military leadership, threatened over the weekend to free by force those soldiers accused of promoting the foiled coup d'etat of 9 May 1989.

In a communique it sent to the media, the group notes that the indicted officers have not had an opportunity to defend themselves and have been subjected to mock trials in which the Defense Ministry has been judge and jury. It says that, in addition, they are being held in a "filthy enclosure that has never been used to hold even the worst criminals."

The documents says: "We demand that Vinicio Cerezo immediately release our fellow soldiers; otherwise, we will be forced to free them by force and will hold the government responsible for the probable beginning of a civil war."

Moreover, the officers express support for the democratic process but demand that the president of the Republic immediately dismiss the current national defense minister, General Hector Alejandro Gramajo, who they feel is mainly responsible for the division and weakening of the Army.

In addition, the mountain officers declare the members of the War Council and the magistrates of the Third Appellate Court traitors to the nation for having acted in an infamous manner against the indicted officers.

Minister Says Nun's Charges 'Not Credible'

PA1601190790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2117 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The report that Diana Marck Ortiz, a U.S. nun, was kidnapped, tortured, and raped by unidentified men in Guatemala in November "does not deserve any credit," Guatemalan Interior Minister General Carlos Morales said today.

Marck Ortiz, an Ursuline, reiterated her accusations in a document sent from the United States to the Guatemalan Legislative Assembly's Human Rights Commission.

The U.S. nun allegedly was kidnapped, tortured, and raped by a group of unidentified men in Antigua, Guatemala, in the southern part of the country in November.

The Human Rights Commission members asked the Christian Democratic government to reopen the case to clarify the incident.

The minister of the interior, however, said that the nun's charges "are not credible because since the beginning, when she was still in Guatemala, she refused to cooperate with the authorities and instead flew to the United States where she filed a report."

Gen. Morales said the nun also refused to receive Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera when the minister traveled to the United States to gather information on the case and talk with her.

Morales said: "We will not waste our time. She has shown her irresponsibility by failing to appear to report the incident."

Oliverio Garcia, vice president of the Human Rights Commission, said today that the reiteration of the nun's report will serve as the basis for resuming the investigation to clarify the case and punish those responsible.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Visiting

PA1301185790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2247 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE) Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said today in Guatemala that Central America must solve its problems without foreign intervention.

The diplomat, who arrived in this country for a 2-day official visit, met with Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio, Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera, and Defense Minister General Alejandro Gramajo with whom he analyzed the relations between the two countries.

Bondevik said his visit to Guatemala is to strengthen the mutual understanding because the relations between Guatemala and Norway have traditionally "been limited."

He expressed his "concern" over the human rights situation in this country and asked the government to solve the problem of missing people and reduce violence.

The foreign minister said that Norway is closely following the efforts being made by the five Central American presidents to find a peaceful solution in Central America, a region affected for many years by conflict.

During a news conference held at the Government Palace, the diplomat said: "The solution to the conflict must be based on a regional solution and without foreign intervention."

He explained that during his meeting with Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera he analyzed the Central American peace process and the bilateral relations between Norway and Guatemala.

"We know that the guerrilla movement in El Salvador is being supported by countries like Cuba and others, but what is important now is to achieve a dialogue," the

diplomat said, and added that the conflict in that country has increased the problem of refugees in Guatemala.

Magne Bondevik will travel tomorrow to Nicaragua and then on to Costa Rica. The Norwegian foreign minister will meet with the highest authorities of those countries.

* Free Trade Zones Law Passed

90EM0057A Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Nov 89 p 4

[Text] After several months of debate and analysis by the Legislative Committee on the Economy and governmental and private sectors interested in the bill, the Congress of the Republic issued Decree 65-89 yesterday enacting the Free Trade Zones Law.

According to the Committee's deputies, the Free Trade Zones Law, in combination with the Law on Development of Export and In-Bond Assembly Activities passed a few months ago, will be an important pillar in the revitalization and growth of the country's economy.

Despite its complexity, the Free Trade Zones Law was passed quite rapidly, without major obstacles, although studies and recommendations were submitted by Chambers of Industry and Commerce, and were taken into account by the Committee on the Economy.

Guatemala's only operative such zone at present is its Zolic [Customs-Free Industry and Trade Zone], but under this new law it will be possible to add several such zones, which are expected to attract companies now operating in other Caribbean and Central American countries.

The law will become effective 30 days after its publication. Its applicative rules, regulations, and procedures will be issued within 60 days thereafter. Customs-free zones are reported to have already been set up in Villa Nueva and Amatitlan, with facilities assembled, and waiting for the law to become effective so as to begin full-scale operations.

Nicaragua

UN Delegate Praises Election Campaign Process

PA1601162890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1213 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Mr. Elliott Richardson, special delegate sent by the UN secretary general, has praised the way in which the election campaign is being conducted in Nicaragua. Mr. Richardson, who will return to New York today, recognized the government's goodwill to conduct the election campaign in a normal manner. He made special mention of the way in which the police have done their job during the political rallies held by the participating political parties. During his visit to Nicaragua, Mr. Richardson met with all political parties, President Daniel Ortega, and Supreme Electoral Council magistrates.

[Begin Richardson recording, in English with passage by passage translation into Spanish] One of these improvements is the reduction in the violence associated with the political rallies. It is generally recognized and accepted that the police have been making a valuable contribution to preventing violence. Time has been made available to the opposition parties on Channel 6 television. There has been improvement in the general climate. The situation in the countryside is still disturbing, and we hope that there will be further moderation of any action that could be attributed to the contras or anyone else. [end recording]

Arce on Meeting With UN Envoy

PA1601230790 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Elliot Richardson, personal envoy of the UN secretary general, ended his second working day in Managua yesterday. He met with Bayardo Arce, director of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] electoral campaign, as well as with the leaders of most of the political parties participating in the elections.

After his meeting with Richardson, Arce reported that local pro-U.S. groups have received over $30 million from the U.S. Government from 1984 to this date.

In 1989, the UNO [National Opposition Union] received $8 million, which was given to them in two installments. However, this money was not reported to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

Richardson, saying his 2-hour meeting with Commander Arce was "very beneficial," said they talked about Nicaraguan-U.S. relations.

Asked about this matter, he said: "My response is that we have indeed talked about the (U.S. issue) regarding the electoral process."

Arce told Richardson that the main obstacle for the electoral process is the violence promoted by the counterrevolutionary groups, which are financed by the U.S. Government.

Arce talked about the campaign that the United States has begun to conduct against the Sandinist leaders through an FRG newspaper, and also mentioned the latest campaign initiated on Thursday by LA PRENSA, which is trying to blame the Nicaraguan Government for the delay in receiving the millions of dollars approved by the United States for the UNO. However, the director of the FSLN electoral campaign explained that the transfer of the funds has been delayed because of bureaucratic problems of the U.S. Government itself.

Mr Richardson said he talked with Arce about problems that have already been solved and others that need to be

solved. He also said he found the Sandinist leader to be a man who is willing to contribute to the creation of a climate of political trust among all the electoral opponents.

Richardson stressed the need for the opposition to have the largest number of party poll representatives at the voting table board on election day.

UNO spokesmen told Richardson that there is an imbalance in the use of the media, and they accused the FSLN of intimidating the UNO candidates. Other parties have reportedly also made similar complaints.

The distinguished American jurist will continue with his tight work schedule today by visiting the towns of Bluefields and Puerto Cabezas.

His meeting with observers from the OAS and the Carter Center, scheduled for 1200 yesterday, was postponed until today upon his return from the Atlantic coast region.

Eden Pastora Notes Divisions Within UNO

PA1601231890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1241 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Eden Pastora, former contra leader and now a member of the Social Christian Party, predicted a possible division within the UNO [National Opposition Union] when the two factions that are fighting for the dollars meet face to face. Pastora said there is a group headed by Alfredo Cesar and Antonio Lacayo, who support Mrs Violeta Chamorro, and another group headed by Virgilio Godoy, Eli Altamirano, and Luis Sanchez Sancho, who are waging an internal struggle to win over the Yankees' support. Let us listen to Eden Pastora.

[Begin Pastora recording] Two large groups have been formed within the UNO. One has been formed around Mrs. Violeta Chamorro and is headed by Alfredo Cesar, Antonio Lacayo, Cristiana Chamorro, and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. This is the family group. The other group is headed by Eli Altamirano, Luis Sanchez Sancho, and Virgilio Godoy, and it seem the MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement] has joined them. These two large opposing groups are fighting for the dollars. However, I am sure they are not really interested in the welfare of the Nicaraguan people.

Mrs. Chamorro is currently suffering from a fractured leg. She is suffering from osteoporosis and is turning into a soda cracker. Her group is weakening and the other group headed by Eli Altamirano, Sanchez Sancho, and Virgilio Godoy is taking control [of the UNO]. That could be a factor leading to a division within the UNO. [end recording]

1,600 Contras Enter Country To Stage Attacks

PA1601233690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2149 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Juigalpa, Nicaragua, 16 Jan (DPA)—Nicaraguan Colonel Roberto Calderon, chief of the country's southeastern military region, stated today that 1,600 contras have split into small groups in Nicaragua's eastern mountains to carry out acts of sabotage against the people, attack towns, and make an attempt against the life of President Daniel Ortega, who is constantly visiting the region in his electoral campaign.

Calderon added that in the last 2 months, 300 contras have entered the Chontales and Boaco regions, as well as the southern Atlantic area, from anti-Sandinist camps in Honduras.

Noting that 150 contras have entered from Costa Rica, Calderon said that on 12 January a group entered Nicaragua through Cano Uriyidito, approximately 18 km from Sarapiqui, and 2 days later another group entered through Hurena. Calderon stated that a group of contras was also detected near Palo Seco, and radio information revealed that they are planning to attack "La Penca," a Nicaraguan Army post.

He also disclosed that the contras have been attacking army patrol boats in the past few weeks.

Regarding the opening of routes for new contra incursions from Costa Rica, Col. Calderon said that the Nicaraguan Army and Foreign Ministry will have to discuss the reinforcement of immigration control posts.

Calderon—who has been the Sandinist Army commander in the southern region with headquarters in Juigalpa, approximately 140 km from Managua, for the past 10 years—said that the contras are now using AK and Brazilian-made Fal rifles. However, he explained, they do not carry much ammunition to make mobilization in the mountains easier.

Calderon stated that there have been 44 clashes between the contras and the Sandinist Army in January. These clashes have resulted in 29 casualties for the anti-Sandinists and 16 for the revolutionary government forces.

According to intelligence information, the contras plan to attack La Libertad, Santo Domingo, and Wapi, and to ambush nearby roads.

Other details given by Col. Calderon indicated that the contras intend to enter urban areas to carry out terrorist attacks, particularly in towns located in the country's southeastern region.

In the past few years, Boaco and Chontales Departments have been the scenes of the heaviest fighting.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Comments on Visit

PA1601162490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik arrived in Nicaragua on 12 January as part of a tour through Central America.

Minister Bondevik said he was "very happy to be in Nicaragua. Although this is a very short visit, I regard it as very important because this is the first time that a Norwegian foreign minister has visited Nicaragua."

Bondevik came to Nicaragua to learn about the situation in the area countries and report Norway's views on the regional conflict.

The Norwegian leader greeted and congratulated the five Central American presidents on their peace efforts. He said that, in his opinion, "regional conflicts must be settled without any foreign intervention" and that, "in the case of El Salvador, we hope a national dialogue can be held in this country."

Nicaragua is the only Central American country that fulfilled the Esquipulas accord regarding a national dialogue in all countries.

"Personally, I think the Central American conflicts have deep economic roots. This is one of the reasons Norway has been assisting Nicaragua, thus contributing to meeting the people's needs and achieving peace," Bondevik said.

He also said: "The bilateral relations between Nicaragua and Norway are good and have been reinforced in the past few years by our contribution toward development."

One other purpose of the visit is to learn about the human rights situation in the region. "In our trip to Guatemala and Costa Rica, my delegation and I gathered information on the human rights situation in these countries. We want to do the same in Nicaragua," Bondevik said.

Bondevik met on 15 January with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Electoral Council. The Norwegian minister met with President Daniel Ortega during the evening.

Bondevik said he is confident the Nicaraguan elections will be pure, honest, and democratic, just as the revolutionary leaders told him they would be.

The Norwegian foreign minister reportedly met with leaders of the Socal Christian Party, whose political and ideological views are similar to his. Bondevik is the top leader of the Norwegian Christian Democratic Party.

Bondevik is accompanied by Ole Peter Kolby, Political Affairs director of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry; Haavard Austad, adviser to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry's Latin American Division; the Norwegian Ambassador to Nicaragua, Jan Arvesen and his wife Sissi de Arvesen, and Hilde Johnson, personal secretary to the foreign minister.

Results of CEMA Meeting; Petroleum Quota Upped

PA1501164590 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Nicaragua is optimistic about its future relations with socialist countries despite the drastic changes that they have experienced in the past few months, because aid from the new governments installed in several East European countries remains unchanged.

Commander Henry Ruiz Hernandez, minister of foreign cooperation, made this statement in assessing the results of the 45th CEMA meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria. At that meeting, the socialist countries made a spectacular shift in their trade relationship by abandoning the old community market and redefining the system to adjust it to the new political situation being experienced by the region.

An emergency request for $100 million made by President Daniel Ortega in mid-1989 to implement a program of economic adjustments was discussed during this historic session. During the event, Commander Ruiz made a lengthy presentation before the heads of government who said that the Nicaraguan case deserves special attention.

Despite the serious problems it is facing abroad and in response to Nicaragua's situation, the USSR increased Nicaragua's petroleum quota and, although the USSR had advanced 100,000 tons of petroleum from this year's allotment, it did not deduct that amount from this year's allotment—which remains at 300,000 tons allotment.

Also, the USSR suspended Nicaragua's obligation to pay off financial and economic debts expiring in 1990 by extending their deadlines to 1991, thus giving Nicaragua's economy some breathing room.

On his part, GDR chief of state Hans Modrow dismissed speculation within the Nicaraguan right wing concerning the suspension when he told Commander Ruiz with strong conviction: "We will maintain our solidarity with Nicaragua," which includes important donations.

The GDR confirmed that it will ship 90,000 tons of petroleum this year.

Bulgarian Premier Georgi Atanasov and Vice President [title as published] Andrey Lukanov of the ruling Communist Party affirmed their position regarding continued help for Nicaragua.

"We have to accept—said Commander Ruiz—that they have economic problems. However, although adjustments will be made with other countries, they have

guaranteed that Nicaragua will receive the allotted 40,000 tons of free petroleum during 1990."

The Sandinist leader said President Ortega had received very positive responses to the special $100 million request he made to CEMA countries in October 1989. Czechoslovkia promised to loan funds in foreign exchange and issued a $10 million credit for additional merchandise to be paid here for the creation of the funds needed to start the adjustment program.

In the past 60 days, the government structures of many CEMA countries have changed. Czechoslovakia's new government has been called "the 100-day government," as this is the time the People's Assembly has to demonstrate that it can manage the nation's destiny.

Also, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who participated in the CEMA meeting in Sofia, ratified Cuba's donation to Nicaragua of 90,000 tons of petroleum.

"So, we start 1990 with 520,000 tons of guaranteed petroleum. We need 180,000 tons to complete the 700,000 tons we consume each year, but I trust that we can resolve this matter during the year," Ruiz added.

When he was asked about the scarcity of funds to implement the 1990 economic plan, he replied that, as Martinez Cuenca had said, the amount needed was approximately $110 million but, as most of the petroleum had been obtained, the urgent need is now $80 million. "These resources are very important as they are needed for the production plan," he said.

He noted, however, that with the undisputable victory of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] presidential candidate Daniel Ortega at the 25 February elections, there was sure to be more flexible economic relations with Western Europe.

He said that the CEMA agreements for trade exchange had been implemented on 11 January. These new agreements ensure that merchandise will be traded at international prices and is to be paid with freely convertible foreign exchange.

Regarding the profound changes that have taken place in CEMA countries and their repercussions in Nicaragua, Ruiz said perspectives were promising even with the changes in structures and procedures.

Panama

Peruvian Charge d'Affaires Asked To Leave

PA1601172290 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1555 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Report by Carlos Roseman De Leon]

[Text] We have a last-minute report from the Foreign Ministry. A few minutes ago, Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovich announced that the Panamanian Government, through the Foreign Ministry, has asked the Peruvian Embassy's charge d'affaires to leave the country because of statements made against the interests of this government, and for allowing common criminals to take shelter in the Peruvian Embassy. Here are Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovich's remarks to the press:

[Begin recording] [Castulovich] It was necessary to speak with the Peruvian charge d'affaires because of the seriousness of the Panamanian Government's decision, made through the Foreign Ministry. On instructions of Foreign Minister Julio Linares, I have just delivered to the Peruvian charge d'affaires a note in which we ask that he leave the Republic of Panama within 72 hours, which is the normal period established in diplomatic practice for these cases.

In the note, I also inform him of the statements made by the Peruvian Government authorities, which have been published here and abroad, questioning the legitimacy of the democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation that is headed by Guillermo Endara Galimany and which is the result of the will of the Panamanian people.

In view of those statements, which have been public and have been widely reported by the press, the Panamanian Government believes these statements make it difficult for the normal development and status of the relations between Peru and Panama and therefore, it has decided to ask the charge d'affaires to leave the country.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Castulovich] No sir, the charge d'affaires was asked to leave the country, but the rest of the Peruvian diplomatic mission remains in Panama. You must also remember that several people have sought asylum in the Peruvian Embassy and, in a responsible manner, we still have to determine the situation of those people who are there. First of all, this will depend on the information that the Attorney General's Office provides us because, as you know, President Endara said on 15 January that the Republic of Panama will not grant diplomatic safe conduct to criminals. Therefore, within the division of powers that exists in a de jure system, the Attorney General's Office will have to decide whether there are criminal charges pending against the people in that embassy. As soon as the Attorney General's Office informs us, we will inform the Peruvian Embassy. In addition, I want to tell you that on the instructions of Foreign Minister Linares, I have ordered the Panamanian charge d'affaires in Peru, a career diplomat whose last name is Serrano, to notify the Peruvian Foreign Ministry that we have recalled him for consultations in Panama. Therefore, the Panamanian charge d'affaires in Lima, Mr. Serrano, has been recalled by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry for consultations. He is notifying the

Peruvian Foreign Ministry, and he will be returning to Panama with his family in the next few hours. [end recording]

We have noticed that as a result of recent events, diplomatic relations between Panama and Peru are quite tense and delicate. Experts indicate that relations might be broken because the Peruvian Embassy has granted asylum to common criminals.

Ecuador Grants Asylum to Panamanians, Chileans

PA1701034490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0315 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Quito, 16 Jan (EFE) — Ecuador has granted political asylum to two Panamanians and two Chileans who have sought shelter at the Ecuadoran Embassy in Panama since 26 December, Acting Foreign Minister Mario Aleman reported today.

Aleman said that those being granted asylum are Panamanian citizens Aurelio Ivan Nieto Andrade, born in Ecuador, and [Democratic Revolutionary Party member] Humberto Lopez Tirone, and Chileans Juan De Dios Valenzuela Varas and Jose Antonio Norambuena.

Aleman said the Ecuadoran Government has requested that the Panamanian Government grant safe conduct for these four people so they can leave the country.

Switzerland To Cooperate on Noriega's Accounts

AU1701110490 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Berne, Jan 17 (AFP)—Swiss authorities have agreed to cooperate with U.S. officials on accounts held in Switzerland by the deposed dictator of Panama, Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Justice and Police Ministry said here on Wednesday.

The Federal Police Office has accepted the formal request made by the United States on January 9, it said.

The U.S. authorities wanted to see documents concerning accounts in a bank in Geneva and another in Zurich held by Noriega, who is in detention in Florida. [passage omitted]

Opposition PRD Holds First News Conference

PA1601203290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1933 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 16 Jan (ACAN - EFE)—The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the main party of the overthrown Panamanian regime, today questioned the legitimacy of the Guillermo Endara government, which it considered "outside the law" and controlled by the United States. The PRD also demanded "respect" as an opposition group.

In its first news conference since the U.S. invasion on 20 December, PRD leaders denounced the existence of "political persecution" by the U.S. Army, demanding indemnification from it because of the damage caused by the intervention.

PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino, former minister under General Manuel Antonio Noriega, said the current government took office in "a U.S. military base" in Panama and, therefore, it "is outside the law."

Nevertheless, it issued a call to the new government so "together we can seek Panamanian solutions to our problems."

All of the leaders of the previous regime rejected armed actions as a means to wage opposition. "We reject violence as a method for political struggle," PRD Assistant Secretary Pedro Pereira said, adding: "We believe in democratic opposition, and we are going to use legal and constitutional means."

Prominent PRD member Mario Rognoni, who was at the news conference, told ACAN-EFE that "the country is not led by a Panamanian Government but by the (U.S.) invasion troops."

"The violation of human rights and the decision-making process originate from the Southern Command or Washington and not from the Panamanian Presidency," Rognoni stressed.

However, PRD Secretary General Espino said "the PRD is a party that believes in dialogue and in concerted efforts as a basic means to achieve peace." He warned that to achieve this objective, "the invaders must first withdraw" from Panama. Espino charged that there has been "selective looting" by the "occupation forces," as well as confiscation of property and "political persecution" against the leaders of the previous regime, whose residences have been raided, in many cases, by U.S. soldiers.

PRD leader Ruben Dario Murgas, former Radio Nacional director, asserted that the U.S. troops "have taken children hostage in concentration camps to force their parents to surrender."

Espino accused the U.S. Army of having initiated the looting that went on for 3 days in Panama City after the invasion.

Pereira went even further and asserted that the U.S. troops "encouraged the people to steal."

Espino asked the Panamanian Ecumenical Committee and the Panamanian Red Cross to begin indentifying bodies that were buried in "common graves" located, according to him, throughout the country and whose exact number he does not know.

Murgas said "there are thousands of bodies that have not yet been buried, thousands of wounded who have not yet

received medical treatment, and thousands of detainees with whom they have been unable to communicate.

The PRD secretary general requested the formation of a committee "to assess the property damage inflicted on the Panamanian society and economy after the U.S. invasion" in order to calculate the indemnifications.

Rognoni, a leading businessmen of the most conservative PRD wing, said the political persecution "has no legal justification, and it denies all possibilities for a reconciliation," as does the freezing of bank accounts of employees and collaborators of the previous regime.

Similarly, the PRD leaders criticized the "illegal and arbitrary" confiscation and transfer to the United States of Panamanian goods and the fact that the current government "denies the right to asylum" to those who have sought refuge in various Latin American embassies.

As for former General Noriega, the PRD leaders alleged that although "it was born as the ruling party," the PRD did not appear as a political group sponsored by the former general.

The PRD, which for several years was an observer within the Socialist International, was founded in 1978 shortly after General Omar Torrijos announced his withdrawal from politics.

Rognoni stressed that "the PRD can now play a much more important role, a role with more historical and political meaning than the one it had with the Defense Forces."

As for the drug-trafficking and money-laundering charges filed against Noriega in the United States, Rognoni asserted that "that is a problem that concerns U.S. justice."

Students File Formal Charges Against Endara

PA1601195790 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1828 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] This morning a group of Panamanian students from the Law School of the University of Panama went to the Attorney General's Office to file formal charges against President Guillermo Endara and Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon. The students were headed by Alexis Cuevas. We have a report on the charges filed by these students.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] A group of Panama University students came here to formally file charges against President Guillermo Endara Galimany and Vice President Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon.

The students charge that on 20 December 1989 our country was invaded by the United States and that dorms as well as the University of Panama were seized. We want to say that the Attorney General's Office does not have the faculty to investigate charges filed against the president, the vice presidents, Cabinet ministers, or magistrates.

In this specific case, since the charges have been filed against the president, it is the Legislative Assembly that has the constitutional and lawful obligation to investigate these charges against the president. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Enarino Rosas, who is a journalist and also an attorney, has filed formal criminal charges against Manuel Solis Palma, former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Dignity Battalion commander Dr. Benjamin Colamarco, Enrique Thompson, commander of the Committees for the Defense of Fatherland and Dignity [CODEPADI], and retired Major Arturo Marquines for having created the Dignity Battalions.

U.S. Course of Action During Looting Defended

PA1601163090 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jan 90 p 1

["As of Today" editorial]

[Text] A few hours after the first clashes between the Defense Forces and the U.S. Army troops, groups of armed robbers began to loot and destroy the stores in Panama City and Colon. The initiative seems to have come from the Dignity Battalions and other paramilitary groups of the same stripe, but immediately after them came criminal hordes that devastated stores, industries, businesses, and everything they found in their way. One frequently hears many people criticizing the U.S. military authorities for having permitted all the looting. Those who feel this way forget that the U.S. troops, which are armed, equipped, and trained for war, came to Panama to overthrow Noriega's dictatorial regime. That is what they did and everyone agrees that they did so quickly and efficiently. If in addition the soldiers would have tried to prevent the looting, many more hundreds of Panamanians would have been killed and today, the world, including Panama, would be condemning the massacre. The only possible response to the prevailing anarchy was demonstrated by the thousands of citizens who spontaneously organized and armed themselves with whatever they could to defend their neighborhoods and property during the most critical days. That is the only gesture that redeems us from the collective shame most Panamanians experienced when they saw so many fellow countrymen involved in looting and destruction at the most difficult and dramatic moment of our nation's history.

Endara: No Safe-Conduct for Criminals in Asylum

PA1501182490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Jan 90 p 12-A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] Panamanian President Guillermo Endara G. stated on 14 January that safe-conducts will not be given

to any criminal who has sought refuge in some diplomatic mission. At the same time, he said that it is very difficult to determine when the U.S. troops will leave the country.

At the moment, Felicidad S. de Noriega, her three daughters, and the husband of one her daughters are in asylum at the Cuban Embassy; Captain Eliecer Gaitan, chief of the bodyguards of former General Noriega is in the Apostolic Nunciature; and former Captains Heraclides Sucre (chief of Battalion 2000) and Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo (spokesperson for the defunct Panama Defense Forces) are at the Peruvian Embassy.

It was learned on 14 January that former President Manuel Solis Palma has sought asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy.

These people face serious charges leveled against them by the Government Ministry. The charges are being investigated.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz announced on 12 January during a news conference that one of the persons implicated in the "execution" of the leader of the foiled 3 October 1989 coup was Heraclides Sucre, who is in asylum at the Peruvian Embassy.

Endara, who was intercepted by reporters on leaving the Cristo Rey Church, said that for the time being the government is abiding by international law allowing these persons to seek asylum in those diplomatic missions.

He said that the right of asylum is stipulated by international law and regulated by treaties in our Latin America. Therefore, we must honor these treaties.

However, he added, "We will advise countries of those people who do not deserve to be given political asylum."

If it is confirmed that any of these people have committed homicides, are thieves, or have harmed the Panamanian people, we will tell our Latin American brothers that the people they have given refuge to are common criminials, who do not deserve to be given asylum for all the harm they have caused the Panamanian people.

'Never Again' Becomes People's Slogan

PA1501012690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 2-A

[Editorial: "Never Again"]

[Text] The people have a keen sense for coming up with slogans and symbols. During the peaceful demonstrations against the tyranny, a patriot suggested the use of a white handkerchief as a symbol of protest and opposition. Thus, the white handkerchief was waved in the air from one end of the country to the other until the day the tyranny began arresting and torturing anyone who dared show it.

Since the fall of the shameful tyranny, countless cartoons have surfaced which read "Never Again." No one knows who thought up the phrase. Channels 4 and 13 [Panama City Circuito RPC Television and Panama City Telemetro Television] have aired programs with that title. These programs were directed by truly capable and brave television technicians. The programs, pride for all Panamanians, have shown us what happened and what only a few of us knew about. The pictures speak for themselves and the Panamanians have a debt of gratitude to Channels 4 and 13.

The message of the television stations has had profound acceptance among the Panamanian people. "Never Again" will we allow the military boot and tyranny to impose themselves on the people. "Never Again" will the Panamanians allow their homeland to be ruled with the rifle and machine gun for the benefit of an international drug trafficking cartel. There will be no more exile, imprisonment, torture, or rape of helpless children. The memory of the general headquarters [Panama Defense Forces (FDP) General Headquarters] and the Modelo Jail, and of those who occupied them and ordered the outrages, will not be easy to forget.

The Panamanians must "Never Again" see a Doberman, Battalion 2000, Smurfs, Urracas, Machos de Monte [FDP companies], Internationalists [Expedicionarios], or the paramilitary. Panama cannot defend the canal and does not need an "air force" or a civic action group. The civic action group must be part of the Public Works Ministry. The two banks the tyrant created, for obvious purposes, must be closed.

We Panamanians will "Never Again" allow the abuses of the military or their arrogant attitude. We do not want traffic police who ask for money in exchange for not writing up an unjustified traffic ticket.

What we Panamanians do want is a police force we can be proud of, a police force we can respect and admire, a police force that is not an enemy, but rather a friend from whom the children will not hide in terror.

What we also want is to forget the nightmare we were put through first by the Torrijist dictatorship and then by the Noriega drug trafficking tyranny. We want to forget the anguish, but not the responsibilities, because we long for justice. We also want to dedicate ourselves to the reconstruction of the new republic in complete democracy, without the normal fear of there being some of the tyranny's executioners still on the loose, armed with weapons and filled with hatred, and bent on continuing the orgy of terror and blood the tyrant taught them.

This is the message included in the "Never Again" phrase repeated over and over by everyone.

Argentina

Economy Minister Announces New Measures

PY1601014090 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Address to the nation by Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez from the Argentina Televisora Color Studios in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] Fellow Argentines: On New Year's day I addressed the nation to announce measures aimed at averting the serious scourge of hyperinflation. At that time, I explained that with hyperinflation the austral experienced a sudden devaluation against the dollar and the prices of all goods and services increased.

The measures implemented then were basically centered on the exchange of 7-day time deposits, bonds, and minimum legal reserves in the financial system for the 1989 series of Export Bonds.

It was no easy decision but those with common sense know we had no alternative. After overcoming the vicious cycle of weekly time deposits, we can only thank the understanding of the majority of the people who, in their wisdom, instinctively understood that these measures entailed something more important. The main idea behind these measures is to rebuild a country in which work and investment in production are again the backbone of national activities.

The idea was to end the people's frustration and lethargy which resulted from observing the way in which complicated financial plans undermined the healthy daily efforts of thousands of businessmen, employees, workers, retirees, and housewives.

I would like to be absolutely frank with you. We are aware of the inconveniences we have caused to—among others—small savers, people who did not want to speculate, and small businessmen. We had to behave as a surgeon who must cut healthy tissue to reach a tumor. Believe me, we elected for the smallest damage.

What was the other alternative? A chaotic market; a completely uncontrolled and anarchic situation in which equity, security, and trust would be completely nonexistent values. Although today we are facing a path filled with difficulties, other alternatives would have led us to a path of no return.

Allow me to make the following reflection: The positive and responsible behavior of the markets since we announced the 1 January measures have been better than we expected. They have brought us out of the dramatic situation we were in at the end of the year, when we lived in a tense, anxious, desperate climate. We overcame the immediate problems, but we should not forget that this has only been the first battle in a long campaign.

I wish to reassert to you that we have faith in the president's efforts to confront all the other obstacles and that we will support those efforts. We are convinced that as a government, as a country, as a society, and as part of a group, we must confront those obstacles with austerity, with faith, and with hope. But this must not be confused with inflexibility, naivete, or utopian attitudes.

We are confronted with the serious deficits of public companies, of the provincial governments, and of the central administration. These three sectors make up the overall state deficit, which has resulted in a vicious circle: deficit, indebtedness, issuance of paper money, inflation. These three continue to crush the hopes of Argentines.

We are very much responsible for this problem that we are transferring to Argentine youths, but we ask them them to support the older generation because this will be a long and arduous battle and we need the encouragement of their strength, their spontaneous attitude, their imagination, and their new ideas. If they are willing to give all this, we welcome the efforts that will be shared by the two generations. Our experience will enlighten them, and their freshness will comfort us.

Sacrifice is unavoidable, but the economy minister and his entire team will be as considerate as possible so burdens are equally distributed. We must rebuild as an organized society the moral value of equity. We must eradicate once and for all the idea that in overcoming the fiscal deficit each sector is willing to watch while the other sector carries the burden. With courage, perseverance, and austerity we must reinstitute solidarity.

Not all responsibility, however, belongs to the three branches of the state sector. To ensure resources, we will continue to strive to decrease tax evasion.

We want to inform you that the action adopted by the new administration of President Menem has managed to reverse the tendency observed in tax collection nationwide.

The quarterly figures of 1989 confirm this: during the 1st quarter, 10.81 percent of the GDP; during the 2d quarter 9.55 percent; during the 3d quarter, 10.70 percent; and during the 4th quarter, 13.73 percent of the GDP.

The tax collection figures corresponding to December 1989, notwithstanding the imbalances, were 13 percent higher than in the same month of the previous year.

In the international trade sector, we will continue expanding the country's objectives. We intend to integrate Argentina with the rest of Latin America—and the whole world, as well—through effective and vigorous trade. This means, however, the need to open up our economy. We are not going to proceed with this in a foolhardy way, but we do want to continue to expand trade.

We should not ask other countries to tell us what we should produce in Argentina. If we want others to respect our sovereignty, let us not give up our leading role.

Regarding the foreign sector, I am convinced, and I have begun receiving direct and specific messages, that the international financial organizations and the developed countries will provide quick and important support to the extent that we provide guarantees of consistency, seriousness, continuity, and good sense in our program.

Every time we sit down face to face with people from other countries, outlining programs of technical financial assistance for the development of our country, all Argentines must be sitting with us at that roundtable meeting.

Regarding international cooperation, the same thing that is happening to us is happening to other countries. The first evaluation one makes when someone requests assistance is not whether that someone is rich or poor. The important thing is whether he is trustworthy, whether he deserves cooperation, whether he promises to make efforts to benefit from the assistance he will receive, and whether his objectives are clear, concrete, and feasible.

On this point, I cannot but repeat John Kennedy's words when he began the Latin American Assistance Program in 1960, called Alliance for Progress. He said: Do not ask what we can do to help you, ask what you can do to help yourselves.

I now want to announce the concrete measures that will make up this new stage of the economic plan, although they are not the last of the future programs that will be implemented to improve and strengthen this model. I want to explain that these measures comply with the direct orders given by the president of the nation.

In the public sector: 1) By decree No. 3 of 2 January 1990, it has been resolved that all financial, exchange, and investment activities of all public organizations must be done through a unified market to control the performance of those public institutions and to prevent the emergence of another factor of market distortion.

Regarding state reform, the Executive Branch has decided to reorganize, within a period of 60 days, the state business sector, by creating the federal fuel enterprise through the merger of YPF [Government Oil Deposits], the State Gas Company, the Government Coal Deposits, and the Federal Electricity Company, which is made up of the current Water and Power Company, Hidronor [North Patagonia Hydroelectric Company], and other electricity-generating sources of other national enterprises, all of them in compliance with the provisions of Law 23696 on state reform.

We will soon implement a process of privatization of public ownership of the following enterprises under the Defense Ministry's Military Manufacturing General Directorate: Petroquimica Rio Tercero—the package of shares in public hands; Carboquimica S.A.—the package of shares in public hands; Polisur, Monomeros Vinilicos, Induclor, Petropol, and Forja Argentina—the entire package of shares; Tandanor—the percentage of shares in public hands.

The Executive Branch will privatize the following petrochemical companies: Petroquimica Bahia Blanca—the percentage of shares owned by the state; Petroquimica General Mosconi—the entire package of company shares. The bill on these privatizations will be sent to Congress for its immediate treatment this week, in accordance with Article 9 of the State Reform Law.

Decree No. 2 of 2 January 1990 established a strict system of spending control and ordered that only 30 percent of the present budget be presently committed for spending. This is a substantial reduction of previously authorized spending. The decree also forbids new construction or the acquisition of capital goods.

Let me mention SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] reorganization. In order to further implement the reform of the state and reduce public spending, the government has ordered the reorganization of SIDE, including the elimination of 2 undersecretariats, 13 directorates, 36 departments, and 16 divisions; the dissolution of 5 general secretariats; and the elimination of the position of deputy in departments and divisions. These measures mean that 30 percent of all SIDE employees will be made available. Finally the government has decided to sell SIDE-owned properties and 40 percent of SIDE vehicles.

State property, which is not strictly necessary will be sold immediately. The government has already made a tentative list of assets to be sold. To expedite the process, the government will use the help of the financial system or of national or international private companies which, with the proper supervision, will evaluate and dispose of these assets.

The government will sell 120 pieces of real estate from liquidated financial companies that remain in the hands of the Central Bank. The state will accept 1989 Export Bonds as payment for these assets.

The government will accept fixed-term deposits with maturities falling between 30 December 1989 and 30 January 1990, not export bonds, as payment for national, provincial, or Buenos Aires city taxes.

The Secretariat of Public Revenues will be the organ through which the Law on Industrial Promotion will be implemented to be able to investigate the benefits of firms that violated the law. The government will also file legal suits against those firms to recover what they could have gained through tax evasion.

The Public Enterprises General Trusteeship has been placed directly under the Economy Ministry. This decision is to allow prior supervision of public spending to assure the correct use of state funds.

Regarding foreign trade, Economy Ministry resolution No. 1, dated 3 January 1990, ordered the reorganization of the system of custom duties to limit the number presently in effect. This measure is in accordance with

the policy of gradual and reasonable opening of the economy which is being implemented in agreement with the interested parties.

In the financial sector, to solve the problem of liquidity created by the financial emergency, the Ministry has decided to temporarily suspend the prohibition on trading with multiple-signature checks.

To implement the measures necessary to reorganize the financial system, the Central Bank will implement a system of demand deposits and savings in dollars.

As an additional support for the measures to strengthen small- and medium-size enterprises, a decision was made to order the conditional liberation of basic resources with the purpose of providing credit assistance to that sector under conditions in accordance with their needs.

Regarding the national official banking system, we will be carrying out immediately, with the support of international organizations, a thorough study to reorganize the system in line with the current situation. These financial measures are aimed at creating the basic conditions to start reactivating the national economy. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that the new possibilities provided by the new measures, putting aside the urgent short-term results to which we were so accustomed, represent the fundamental basis for the genuine growth to which we aspire within the framework of the productive revolution.

Regarding the international financial sector, on 12 January 1990 the director of the Latin American and Caribbean Operations of the World Bank confirmed to us that this month the World Bank will disburse $80 million for the energy sector.

Concerning salaries, workers of the national public administration in the most important sectors—such as education, health, justice, security, and scientific research—will receive gradual salary increases to counteract the faulty policies that curtailed their legitimate aspirations.

Regarding the Argentine provinces, I would like to report that on 10 January 1990 the vice president of the Latin American and Caribbean Operations of the World Bank notified us that the World Bank accepted our request for a program for financial reorganization and economic development of the Argentine provinces. This represents a 10-year program of three phases with an investment of $1 billion in each phase, to which we will add the financial assistance of the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank].

We would like to point out that this is the first overall federal program that the country has submitted in its entire history to the international financial organizations. For the first time the public and private sectors of each province will assign and manage the international resources, and the provincial banks will be in charge of channeling the resources.

This large provincial program we are announcing has several objectives. First of all, it responds to the political concept developed for many years by President Carlos Menem of returning to one of the clearest mandates of our Constitution, which is to establish a federal country. It also responds to the idea we advocated during the political campaign throughout the nation, which we labeled the new federal pact. As can be expected, this program aims to make the provinces aware of methods to balance their accounts and budgets.

The program we have prepared with the World Bank, and which we will extend to the IDB, provides greater financial assistance in accordance with the serious efforts made by every administration to improve the quality of its provincial resources. For this purpose we have, as of 1990, an annual investment amount of $330 million which will be divided among the 22 provincial districts, the Federal Capital, and the National Territory of Tierra del Fuego. The prudent and wise use of these resources will soon provide fruitful results.

Argentines, I sincerely believe that we should carefully take advantage of the experience we have gained in the past few years with the implementation of different economic programs. We see the economic process as a live, flexible, and changeable organism. We believe that we cannot seek stability only through the adjustment of the fiscal deficit, but must try to resolve the structural problems of the country and then think in terms of growth and economic development. Our diagnosis has been concluded. Our proposal is to work hard and simultaneously on the three fronts.

In this distorted process created by speculation, the economic organism of the country lives in a state of alert and any announcement, from any source, can cause convulsions. Let us put things in order to make life more comfortable. Put away the red alert of rumor. The Economy Ministry team will convey directly anything that is considered necessary, as many times as necessary. We make up a close and disciplined professional team, who, with responsibility and with the invaluable power of humility, can offer its best qualities: work, honesty, and perseverance.

We confirm once again the basic aspects of the program, which will not be changed by the measures we will continue to implement. We believe in the freedom of the market, in the need for fiscal balance, in the need for profound changes in the state, in the tax policies, and in the privatization program with the proviso that the state will continue to do what the private sector cannot do. In contrast to that, we ask the private sector to create and structure new proposals for productive action and risk investments.

We also want to inform you that we will reduce the fiscal deficit significantly when investments of the private sector are carried out separately from the operations

contracted with the state. I would say that in Argentina the state must stop being the best client of the private sector.

Finally, we want to confirm that we also share the ideas of efficiency, modernization, and scientific and technological development, but that under our current situation we cannot forget that all measures must lead to a gradual improvement of the living standard of the Argentines.

We will resolutely adopt whatever measures we may deem necessary, but without overlooking the fact that on the other side of the economic program we are undertaking we can find the social structure of the Republic, that is, all its inhabitants, with no exception whatsoever. Thank you very much.

Cavallo: Commercial Flights to UK To Resume

PY1601221690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has announced that as of this weekend Aerolinas Argentinas and British Airways will resume commercial flights between London and Buenos Aires.

During a news conference in the South Room of Government House that was also attended by President Carlos Menem, Cavallo said that the resumption of commercial flights does not mean that Argentina is dropping its sovereignty claims to the Malvinas Islands.

Bolivia

Government to Protect Panamanian Refugees

PY1201131890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1921 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] La Paz, 11 Jan (EFE)—The Bolivian Government announced today that it will protect the Panamanian citizens who have sought asylum at the Bolivian embassy in Panama, considering this right "to be inviolable."

According to some foreign reports, two former officials of the government of General Noriega have sought asylum at the Bolivian embassy in Panama.

Bolivian Information Minister Manfredo Kempff has stated that the government feels that "the right to asylum is inviolable," and that it will respect Panamanian people who seek protection at the Bolivian embassy.

Kempff stated: "For Bolivia, as a Latin American country and a country that has experienced difficult and hazardous times, the right to asylum is inviolable. For this reason, Panamanian citizens in our embassy will have all the necessary protection of the Bolivian Government, and we will guarantee their departure from Panama."

Kempff added that the government has issued a document on the conflict in Panama following the 20-December events in which it condemns the U.S. invasion, says that it will not recognize the government of Guillermo Endara, and asks for popular consultation so Panamanians may decide on the conflict that is affecting them.

Kempff recalled that Bolivia has ratified the inviolable right of asylum and the immunity of diplomatic embassies.

Antidrug Talks With U.S. 'On Equal Footing'

PY1601175490 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Javier Murillo de la Rocha yesterday said that Bolivia was not looking for a U.S. certificate of good conduct at the Santa Cruz preparatory meeting. De la Rocha said the delegations of the Bolivian, Colombian, and Peruvian Governments analyzed—on an equal footing—the drug-trafficking problem with the U.S. delegation.

The under secretary said the meeting was positive because a consensus was reached on the agenda that the presidents will follow in Cartagena, adding it is not yet possible to mention either figures or investments because this topic will be considered at the summit of February.

De la Rocha explained that the extradition mechanism in cases of drug-trafficking crimes will be analyzed at a bilateral level in the near future. As for the laundering of dollars, this topic will be comprehensively analyzed by the governments of the countries involved in the production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs.

The under secretary said that the Andean countries have made it clear to the U.S. Government that any antidrug plan should take into account the sovereign will of nations.

Commentators Criticize U.S. Actions in Panama

PY1301151090

[Editorial Report] La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish in its 7 January edition publishes on page 3 an 800-word commentary by Ricardo Castanon Solaligue entitled "A New Hero." The author gives details of Noriega's relation with the CIA and the DEA in the 1970's, and quotes former DEA Director John Lawn's appreciation of Noriega's work against drug trafficking.

Castanon says that the United States turned against Noriega "for reasons that are not very clear," using strong pressures to oust him, including the "appropriation" of Panamanian money. The commentator adds that when all pressures failed, the United States "called Endara, named him president," and sent 26,000 soldiers to invade Panama, "shamelessly stepping" on the UN, OAS, and TIAR charters.

Castanon says that the United States "humiliated" Panama, caused the death of 50 Panamanians, caused over $1 billion in property damage, left 10,000 families homeless, and encouraged "treason" by putting a price on Noriega's head. Castanon adds that the Unites States "trampled on the diplomatic immunity of Cuban and Nicaraguan diplomats" and threatened the Vatican Nuncio when Noriega took refuge there.

Castanon says that even though Noriega eventually surrendered, no one believes the charges levied against him. Castanon adds that Noriega "will be included in the gallery of the most notable patriots of that part of the continent." Castanon concludes by saying that the Unites States, in an effort to renounce the Canal Treaty, has turned a "repudiated man into a victim."

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish on 7 January carrries on page 3 a 900-word commentary by Alberto K. Bailey Gutierrez entitled "All Balances Are Negative." The author begins by saying that "the balance" of the Panamanian conflict "is negative from all viewpoints."

Bailey adds that the United States "has trampled on all the rights and principles it claims to defend" and that it "has stepped on international law." Bailey says that not even friends can "justify" these "errors and horrors."

Bailey says that "the world will not forget Stalin, Hitler, Ceausescu, Pinochet, or Bush" and that the United States has just replaced "a tyrannic and crooked" ruler with a "despicable and submissive" one. Bailey says that the United States "has destroyed the Defense Forces and will now argue that without it Panama will not be able to control the canal."

Bailey stresses that "the United States has invaded Panama to renounce what another U.S. Government has signed." He describes the U.S. siege of the Vatican Nuncio, Noriega's mistakes, and Noriega's knowledge of "U.S. dignitaries involved in drug trafficking and arms contraband."

Bailey concludes by saying that Bolivia's Government is right not to recognize Endara's "illegitimately installed government."

Colombia

Car Bomb Believed Intended for DAS Head

PA1601201490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] This is last-minute news: A Security Council meeting involving Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds has just ended. He was asked about the following important issues in the country by newsmen: the car bomb, which we told you about at the beginning of this newscast, kidnappings, and the document to the Extraditables. The report follows:

[Begin recording] [Lemos] It was not an attack. An automobile, I am not very sure whether it was at a residence or a business, was seized. It had been prepared for action, but an attack was not imminent. This automobile had been sought for a long time. Police authorities just told us that certain Mercedes Benz parts were found during a seizure and raid operations suggesting that the seat cushions and other parts of such a car had been dismantled to load it with explosives.

Fortunately, we found that Mercedes Benz. This shows the way in which the public force is acting against those who aim to frighten the people.

[Reporter] General Bedoya said today that based on intelligence reports he understands certain notable people had met the Extraditables through Guido Parra. If he was aware of this, why did he not tell you or other top government officials?

[Lemos] We also discussed Gen. Bedoya's statements. He did make that statement, but we are not aware, at least I am not, that one of these people reportedly contacted the government. That person will be asked to explain his behavior should the intelligence reports received by Gen. Bedoya be confirmed.

[Reporter] If that was true, what would your opinion be about the meeting of one of these people with the Extraditables via Guido?

[Lemos] A particular person may, I suppose, participate in such a meeting, with authorization. However, the state cannot do this. [end recording]

Here is a last-minute report from the the site where the blue Mercedes Benz car loaded with 500 kg of dynamite was found. Monica Sierra filed this report:

[Begin Sierra recording, in progress] ...loaded with 500 kg of ammoniacal dynamite, was found by the National Police at this house in northern Bogota. Apparently the Mercedes Benz was going to be used in a new attack against DAS [Administrative Department of Security] Director General Miguel Maza Marquez.

The authorities are also considering the possibility that it was going to be planted near the offices of Bogota's national police or the residence of former President Belisario Betancur. They seized documents listing the names of the individuals who set it up. Two people were captured.

Apparently, this vehicle had been in the garage for more than 3 weeks. It was also known that the...[recording ends in progress].

That was the video report from the very site of the events where a blue Mercedes Benz loaded with 500 kg of dynamite was found at the intersection of 93d Street and 18th Avenue.

Medellin Cartel's 5th-Ranking Boss Released

PA1601202190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1900 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 16 Jan (DPA)—It was officially reported today that Jose Ocampo Obando, fifth-ranking boss of the Medellin Cartel was released by a judge who claimed there was not enough evidence to hold him. Ocampo had been captured by Colombian authorities in the final days of 1989.

The Army had captured Ocampo Obando, alias "Pelusa," on 30 December while he was resting at a farm near the northwestern town of Necocli.

Eight relatives of Jorge Luis, Juan David, and Fabio Ochoa Vasquez, brother members of the leadership of the Medellin Cartel, were also released because they had no previous police record anwyhere in the country.

Meanwhile, secret police spokesmen reported today that two alleged drug traffickers, brothers Fernando and Martin Gil Zapata, whose extradition has been requested by the United States, were captured during an operation in Medellin.

The two alleged mafia members are wanted by a U.S. Federal Court in Florida on charges of conspiracy to transport cocaine.

Ecuador

Borja Asked Not To Recognize Endara Government

PA1201150490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0827 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Quito, 11 Jan (EFE)—During a demonstration in front of the Government Palace in Quito, the Ecuadoran People's Front [Frente Popular] today asked Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja to not recognize the Panamanian Government of Guillermo Endara.

Nearly 1,000 demonstrators, including workers, peasants, and students of the People's Front, gathered in front of the government palace for more than 30 minutes during which they chanted slogans of solidarity with Panama.

The demonstrators, among which were members of the Alfaro Lives, Dammit (AVC) group, burned a U.S. flag and demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.

They also said Panamanian President Guillermo Endara is a "puppet" of the U.S. Government.

President Rodrigo Borja said recently that the Ecuadoran Government is studying the development of events in Panama to make a decision on whether to recognize the Panamanian Government.

He also said that just as he condemned the military invasion, he will also condemn any diplomatic intervention in Panama.

Peru

Charge d'Affaires Expelled by Endara Government

PY1701011290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Endara's government has given Peruvian Charge d'Affaires Luis Sandiga 72 hours to leave that country. In reprisal, our Foreign Ministry has expelled Panamanian Charge d'Affaires in Lima Jaime Serrano who has been given 24 hours to leave Peru.

The Panamanian decision that set off the crisis was announced this morning; a decision that was provoked by the Peruvian position on the U.S. invasion of Panama. The new Panamanian Government is trying to arrest 12 Panamanian citizens who have sought asylum in our embassy. The Foreign Ministry has issued a communique protesting the situation to the Panamanian Government.

The Panamanians' drastic measure is in retaliation for our Foreign Ministry's position on the U.S. invasion of Panama. The other objective is to arrest five Panamanian officers who have sought asylum in our embassy. Peruvian Charge d'Affaires in Panama Luis Sandiga received a note from Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovich in which the Foreign Ministry also announced that Panama was recalling Jaime Serrano, its charge d'affaires in Lima.

The Peruvian Foreign Ministry has asked the Vatican nuncio to mediate to ensure that the Caracas Convention is respected and that Panama will allow the five officers and their seven relatives who sought asylum in our embassy to leave Panama.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has issued an official communique to state its position in this diplomatic crisis.

In view of the situation created by the Panamanian Government, Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has ordered Panamanian Charge d'Affaires Jaime Serrano Rivas to leave the country. The Foreign Ministry also ordered a reduction of Peruvian personnel in Panama and asked the embassy's first secretary to look after any remaining bilateral matters.

The Foreign Ministry issued an official communique to convey to Guillermo Endara's administration the Peruvian Government's strong protest of and surprise at that government's attitude. Larco Cox said that events have partly been caused by the attitude of former Ambassador Mario Castro Arenas.

[Begin recording] [Larco Cox] Good evening. I have called this news conference to read a Foreign Ministry

communique: [Words indistinct] Today the Panamanian Government told Luis Sandiga Cabrera, our charge d'affaires in Panama, that he must leave Panama in 72 hours.

2. We have expressed to the Panamanian Government, through the Panamanian charge d'affaires in Lima, our surprise and strong protest over that decision.

3. In view of this decision, the Peruvian Government has decided to reduce the personnel of its diplomatic mission in Panama and to maintain its relations with that country at the first secretary level. Peru will in this way continue to fulfill the humanitarian mission of protecting those who have sought asylum in its embassy in Panama while the Panamanian Government issues the safe-conducts that we requested in accordance with the Convention on Diplomatic Asylum signed in Caracas on 28 March 1954.

Peru is contacting the members of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Agreement [Group of Eight] to explain the situation and ask for solidarity and cooperation in overcoming this momentary crisis.

The delicate situation regarding the people at the Peruvian Embassy has provoked our justified alarm and impelled us to begin talks to ensure their diplomatic asylum will be respected. We have talked with the ambassadors from the countries of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Agreement. I have personally spoken with the ambassadors of Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia.

I am now ready to answer any questions.

[Reporter] Mr Larco Cox, unofficial sources have said that the people in the Peruvian Embassy in Panama are not exactly political refugees but common criminals. What do you say about this?

[Larco Cox] The country that grants asylum determines this. We have been very careful to review each one of them and their files. We have checked to see if any of them were facing any trials in Panama or the United States. Our investigation has revealed that none of them are facing trial. The charges were made afterward. We see this as a result of the emotional climate presently existing in Panama.

[Reporter] What is your personal opinion of the incident?

[Larco Cox] It is the diplomatic way to express a protest over what they have been led to believe. According to Panamanian reports, Charge d'Affaires Luis Sandiga has made statements on the situation that did not please the government. The truth is that Sandiga has not made any declarations. However, former Ambassador Castro Arenas is in Panama, and he has embarked on a campaign in which he is seeking retaliation against the Peruvian Government. He could not think of anything better than to point at Sandiga as the person responsible for alleged statements. Sandiga has not said a word about the situation because that is not his job. Besides, his car and the car belonging to one of the embassy's military attaches have been stolen; there is no way to begin an investigation.

[Reporter] Are you saying that former Ambassador Castro Arenas is directly responsible for the situation?

[Larco Cox] You can reach your own conclusions.

[Reporter] If the situation deteriorates, will Peru recall all of its personnel from Panama?

[Larco Cox] We cannot go to that extreme because we are fulfilling a humanitarian cause, as we said in the communique. Our first responsibility at this time is to see that the right of asylum is respected. As long as the refugees remain in the embassy, we will maintain our representation at the level of first secretary. [end recording]

Comments on Expulsion

PY1601203890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1841 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 16 Jan (EFE)—Peruvian Charge d'Affaires in Panama Luis Sandiga today told a Lima radio station that he was expelled from the country "for political reasons, not personal problems." Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovich told Sandiga today that he had 72 hours to leave the country.

The Peruvian diplomat confirmed to the Lima station "Radioprogramas del Peru" that "the reasons" for the expulsion "are public knowledge" and "are included in the note" that the deputy foreign minister gave him. The note says without elaborating that the Panamanian Government's decision is in response to "recent declarations on Panama by Peruvian authorities."

On 12 January President Alan Garcia commented on the situation regarding the 12 Panamanians who had sought asylum at the Peruvian Embassy, saying that they would remain there "for as long as necessary."

The Peruvian Government, which recalled Ambassador to Panama Mario Castro Arenas when now-deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega designated Francisco Rodriguez as president, has been very critical of President Guillermo Endara's government.

The Peruvian Foreign Ministry has heard about the Panamanian Government's decision but has not made any public comment on the situation so far.

Luis Sandiga said the decision to expell him "is a Panamanian Government decision and, as a diplomat, I will accept what the Peruvian Government in Lima decides on the incident." The Peruvian diplomat said that it is the Peruvian Government that "will decide on the kind of representation it will have in Panama, something I cannot comment on."

Sandiga added that "all Peruvian diplomats are well. There were some incidents that you are aware of, such as demonstrations, but nothing personal has occurred."

Expulsion of All Peruvian Diplomats Confirmed

PY1701133090 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has confirmed that the Panamanian Government has expelled all Peruvian diplomats and has declared them persona non grata.

Larco Cox has announced that the Peruvian Government has adopted similar measures that will be announced in the next few hours.

Larco Cox added that along with the Peruvian diplomat, the Panamanian ambassador who sought asylum in the diplomatic mission will also leave the country.

The Peruvian Government has expressed its strong protest over the Panamanian Government's decision to expel the Peruvian diplomatic mission from Panamanian territory. [passage omitted]

Garcia on Asylum for Panamanians, Upcoming Summit

PY1301021290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0014 GMT 13 Jan 90

[News conference by President Alan Garcia with unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] The Panamanian Government has criticized Peru for granting political asylum to former officials from General Noriega's regime. What do you have to say about that situation?

[Garcia] The situation in Panama is not normal. A country that has been invaded by 30,000 soldiers is not experiencing a normal situation. When someone comes to the door of a foreign embassy and asks for shelter because his country is being invaded, that is not the time to ask if he is a culprit or not. If there was a democracy in Panama, if there was a legitimate government in Panama, we could have been more severe with those who knocked on the door. But since Panama was being invaded, you could not waste time considering. You had to provide shelter immediately because the situation was not normal. Panama is not ruled by a government; Panama is ruled by the State Department, or by the U.S. Pentagon and the Southern Command Forces in Panama. So the situation in Panama is not a normal situation in which the man acting as president can say that asylum must not be granted.

[Reporter] What procedure will be followed with the people who sought shelter in the Peruvian Embassy if the Panamanian Government does not grant safe-conducts?

[Garcia] As in other cases, they will be under Peru's protection as long as we think necessary.

[Reporter] Mr President, will the Panamanian flag continue to fly over Government Palace as long as the U.S. troops are not withdrawn?

[Garcia] I believe that this is evidence of the dignity of Latin America. I granted an interview this morning to THE NEW YORK TIMES, a U.S. newspaper—one of the world's most important newspapers—that has been very critical of the absurd measure of invading Panama with 30,000 soldiers. I was asked the same question, and I replied yes, sir; Latin American has indeed been offended and violated. Others do not want to say it out of fear or because they believe they will get credit in exchange for their silence; this is not the case with the president of Peru. So, if U.S. troops have brought down the Panamanian flag in Panama, we will fly it here over Government Palace in a gesture of Latin American solidarity. We Peruvians are essentially Latin Americanists, and we have many common ties with all the countries of this continent. The Panamanian flag will continue to fly here as a symbol of Latin American pride.

I was also asked if I was going to stick to my position on the Cartagena de Indias presidential summit which will discuss a program to fight drug trafficking. I reminded them of something: I promoted that summit personally. That summit was the initiative of the president of Peru, a step taken in Bogota and here in Ica with the presidents of Colombia and Bolivia. However, things have changed since we invited President Bush to that meeting. A nation has been invaded, and this is a grave matter. The international press agencies have manipulated their reports to minimize the importance of having invaded a country. I told them that I would maintain my position. As long as there are U.S. troops abusively and illegally in Panama, as a Latin American head of state I could not sit at a table with the president of a country that has invaded a brotherly country.

I believe that this is an essential point: You can be poor, with many problems and needs, but you must never lose your dignity. You must never lose your dignity, your sense of truth, your sense that what you are doing is right. I believe that the North Americans themselves understand this.

This does not mean that Peru will abandon the battle against drug trafficking. I told them that the presidential level of the meeting could be downgraded. A minister, a vice president, or a prime minister can go to that meeting, and we can implement the agreements that are made there. If radar must be installed jointly, we can install it to intercept the aircraft carrying drugs. If it becomes necessary to commit more resources, we will. Peru is struggling against drug trafficking; we must keep drug trafficking from gaining ground.

Now that they are retreating in Colombia, we must not allow cartels to establish themselves elsewhere, with thousands of millions of dollars to buy off political circles and to economically invade other countries. We have time to prevent this, and we need an alliance with

Colombia, Bolivia, and the United States to do so. However, the need for this alliance must not make us lose sight of our dignity. The president of Peru represents the Peruvian nation, a Latin American country. As long as this situation of invasion and dishonor for our continent continues, it will not be so easy to sit.... [changes thought] Nobody can be slapped in the face and say nothing has happened, here I sit. No, we have dignity. Although the Latin Americans are poor, we can compensate for our poverty with dignity in our conduct. [passage omitted]

Summit Attendance 'Recommended'

PY1601131490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1252 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] First Vice President Senator Luis Alberto Sanchez yesterday recommended that President Alan Garcia attend the summit meeting on drugs which the presidents of Bolivia, Ecuador, and the United States will attend. According to Sanchez, it is necessary that Garcia attend since he has been the main promoter of this summit, which will discuss a problem that has surpassed all continental borders and which has become a universal dilemma.

Garcia, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Hold Talks

PY1301191090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1813 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 13 Jan (EFE)—Miguel Brugueras, Cuban vice minister of foreign relations, said in Lima today that the United States wants to keep its bases in Panama beyond the year 2000, violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Brugueras met with President Alan Garcia Perez for an hour at Government House in Lima today.

After the meeting Brugueras said that they discussed bilateral and international issues including the situation in Panama.

He said: "Panama is a mandatory issue for anyone who is sensitive to and concerned about Latin America, his own country, and international politics."

Brugueras condemned "the barbaric U.S. invasion and the destruction caused in Panama which violated the UN Charter and the principle of nonintervention, treating a Latin American country with imperial arrogance to impose by force of arms what they wanted on the Panamnian people."

He added that the U.S. goal is "to keep its bases in Panama beyond the year 2000, disobeying the Torrijos-Carter treaties."

Brugueras arrived for an unofficial visit on 10 January. Today he will leave for Colombia and Venezuela to exchange points of view with the foreign ministers of those two countries and to meet with their presidents.

Defense Minister Reportedly Tenders Resignation

PY1501000890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2250 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Lima, 14 Jan (EFE)—A high-ranking Peruvian Government source has told EFE that Defense Minister Jose Velasquez Giacarini today tendered his resignation to President Alan Garcia. Velasquez assumed the "political responsibility" for the killing of former Defense Minister Enrique Lopez Albujar.

Velasquez, who was appointed in May, says that he is resigning because General Lopez Albujar did not have any protection when he was killed. Lopez Albujar was killed on 9 January by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) terrorist group.

In the resignation letter he submitted to Garcia, General Velasquez states: "In my capacity as defense minister I must assume the political responsibility for this incident."

In the letter, Velasquez admits that Lopez Albujar was killed because of "lack of protection," which "leads us to deduce (the escort) that was assigned was deficient."

In his resignation, which is dated 12 January, Velasquez states that investigations are under way to establish why General Lopez Albujar lacked escort. He adds that he trusts "the government and the Armed Forces will defeat subversion." [passage omitted]

$340 Million Italian Loan-Donation Accord

PY1301012890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Italy has granted Peru $340 million as part of a loan and donation agreement to be used for irrigation, agricultural projects, industrial transformers, and pharmaceutical products.

Presidency Minister Rodolfo Beltran, who is in Rome, said that the loan is part of a cooperation plan that is worth over $600 million.

Dynamite Attack Leaves Huancayo in Darkness

PY1201140490 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] A dynamite attack last night left the city of Huancayo in total darkness. The explosion destroyed an Electric tower along the line that supplies energy to (?Huaycaya), Huancayo, and Jauja according to the responsible electricity substation.

The outage began at 0716 Huancayo time and the supply was restored at approximately 0200, but only to downtown Huancayo.

Three other explosions were heard after the blackout. There are no reports yet on these explosions, nor on the damage they caused. Last night the electricity personnel could not do any repair work due to the heavy rains that continued until early morning.